



Pathways in American Planning History: A Thematic Chronology

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Planned Communities

- 1868** Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux begin the planning of Riverside Illinois, a planned suburban community stressing rural as opposed to urban amenities.
- 1880-84** Building of Pullman, Illinois, model industrial town by George Pullman.
- 1898** *Tomorrow: A Peaceful Path to Real Reform*, by Ebenezer Howard, a source of the Garden City Movement. Reissued in 1902 as *Garden Cities of Tomorrow*.
- 1903** Letchworth constructed. First English Garden City and a stimulus to New Town movement in America (Greenbelt Towns, Columbia, etc.).
- 1917** Durham, California, an experimental cooperative agricultural colony is established under the California State Land Settlement Act of the same year.
- 1923** Ground broken for construction of Mariemont, Ohio, in suburban Cincinnati. Mary Emery was its founder and benefactor; John Nolen, the planner. Some of its features (short blocks, mixture of rental and owner-occupied housing) foreshadow the contemporary New Urbanism movement.
- 1924-28** Sunnyside Gardens, a planned neighborhood designed by Clarence Stein and Henry Wright, is built by City Housing Corporation under Alexander Bing in Queens, New York.
- 1928** Construction of Radburn, New Jersey, begun. Planned community inspired by Howard's Garden City concept and designed by Stein and Wright. A forerunner of the New Deal's Greenbelt towns.
- 1929** Clarence Perry's monograph on the Neighborhood Unit is published in Volume VII of *The Regional Survey of New York and Its Environs*.
- 1935** Resettlement Administration established under Rexford Tugwell, Roosevelt "braintruster," to carry out experiments in land reform and population resettlement. This agency built the three Greenbelt towns (Greenbelt, Maryland; Greendale, Wisconsin; Greenhills, Ohio) forerunners of present day New Towns: Columbia, Maryland; Reston, Virginia; etc.)
- 1947** Construction of Park Forest, Illinois, and Levittown, New York, begun.
- 1962** The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors establishes Virginia's first residential planned community zone, clearing the way for the creation of Reston, a full-scale, self-contained New Town 18 miles from Washington, D.C.
- 1963** Columbia, Maryland, a new town situated about halfway between Washington and Baltimore, featuring some class integration and the neighborhood principle.
- 1984** Construction begins on Seaside, Florida, one of the earliest examples of the New Urbanism. (Andres Duany and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk). Unlike most earlier planned communities, the New Urbanism emphasizes urban features — compactness, walkability, mixed use — and promotes a nostalgic architectural style reminiscent of the traditional urban neighborhood. The movement has links to the anti-sprawl, smart growth movement.